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Azman on cronyism statement

ARAB Malaysian Development Bank Group executive chairman Tan Sri Azman Hashim clarified yesterday that his description of himself as a crony was merely a reflection of the Prime Minister's encouragement to local businessmen to be high achievers.

The remarks were made on Friday when Azman was asked to comment on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's presidential address at the opening of the Umno general assembly.

In his clarification yesterday, Azman said: "The Prime Minister always encourages Malaysian businessmen and is friendly to all businessmen who are hard working and are achievers. If this is considered cronyism, then I am a crony, and I am happy to be one."

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